REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action of August 14, 2003, which has a shortened statutory period set to November 14, 2003.

Claims 1-22 were pending. Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 19, and 22 to clearly recite features of the present invention. Applicant has also canceled claims 3 and 20 without prejudice. Accordingly, after entry of these amendments, claims 1-2, 4-19, and 21-22 will be pending, of which claims 1, 11, and 19 are independent claims.

In the Office Action, claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 19 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,091,616 to Jacobs et al. ("Jacobs"). Claims 11-14 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacob. Furthermore, claims 2, 3-8, 12, 15-17, 20 and 22 were indicated allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. To the extent these grounds of rejection might still be applied to claims presently pending in this application, they are respectfully traversed

The Examiner first indicates that the phrases of "one of the source/drain" and "the other of the source/drain" recited in claims 1, 11, 19 as lacking antecedent basis and being indefinite

for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. To address the informalities noted by the Examiner, the Applicant has amended these claims by renaming the drain and source terminals of a switch transistor as either a first current-conducting terminal or a second current-conducting terminal. It is a basic understanding that a semiconductor transistor generally includes a control input terminal (gate or base) and two current-conducting terminals, that is, a drain terminal and a source terminal (or an emitter terminal and a collector terminal if the semiconductor transistor is a bipolar junction transistor). The Applicants use the terms "first current-conducting terminal" and "second current-conducting terminal" to respectively denote either one of the drain and source of a transistor. It is believed that the uncertainty caused by such indefinite statements has been removed accordingly. The Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been entered by virtue of the amendments and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, has been overcome.

The Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the indication of the allowable subject matter. However, for the reasons set forth in the following, the Applicants respectively submit that all claims pending in the present application are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 19, 21 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Jacobs, and rejects claims 11, 13, 14, 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Jacobs. As per the Examiner's statements, Jacobs discloses an inverter comprising a transformer, a first switch transistor with a source electrically coupled to the primary side of the transformer, a second switch transistor with a drain electrically coupled to the primary side of the

transformer, a reset capacitor electrically coupled between the drain of the first switch transistor and the source of the second switch transistor, and a control circuit for generating two switch control signals in response to a voltage feedback signal representing the current value at the secondary side of the transformer and respectively providing outputs to the second switch transistor to thereby cause the first switch transistor and the second switch transistor not to conduct current at the same time. The Examiner further conceives that Jacobs discloses a decoupling capacitor (C) electrically coupled to the secondary side of the transformer.

However, the Applicants respectfully disagree. According to Jacobs, a DC-DC power converter is disclosed and includes a transformer, a control circuit, an inverter, a drive compensation circuit, a synchronous rectifier, and an output filter. The inverter is coupled to the primary side of the transformer. The control circuit is used to monitor the DC output voltage Vout and to adjust the switching duty cycle of the power switch of the inverter so as to regulate the output voltage Vout. The synchronous rectifier is coupled to the secondary side of the transformer to rectify the AC voltage waveform supplied by the secondary winding of the transformer. The drive compensation circuit is used to generate and deliver first and second drive signals to the switch transistors of the synchronous rectifier. The output filter is used to rectify the rectified DC voltage to supply a constant DC voltage Vout at an output of the power converter. The Examiner alleges that Jacobs discloses a decoupling capacitor (C) electrically coupled to the secondary side of the transformer. As a matter of fact, the capacitor C indicated in Jacobs is one of the components of the output filter of the DC-DC power converter that provides

a constant DC voltage Vout at the output of a DC-DC power converter, and it does not accomplish the decoupling operation either alone or in combination with other circuit elements.

In Jacobs, the capacitor C together with the inductor L forms a low-pass LC filter that is capable of filtering off the high-frequency harmonics of the rectified DC voltage supplied by the synchronous rectifier with a specific filtering function, and it does not accomplish the decoupling operation nor belong to the inverter.

By contrast, the DC-AC inverter of the claimed invention substantially discloses a decoupling capacitor C2 capable of stabilizing and providing an output AC voltage to a discharge lamp. It is readily known that the capacitor in Jacobs which is treated as a decoupling capacitor by the Examiner does not belong to the DC-AC inverter nor accomplish the decoupling operation. The Applicants respectfully submit that the decoupling capacitor indicated by the Examiner according to Jacobs is unqualified to serve as a decoupling capacitor because it does not accomplish the decoupling operation. The capacitor C as indicated by Jacobs is a member of a low-pass LC filter which is placed at the output end of the DC-DC converter for providing a constant output DC voltage to drive a load device, and is not a component of a DC-AC inverter. The Applicants respectfully call the Examiner's attention to the inherent difference between Jacobs and the claimed invention in these regards.

In conclusion, the claimed invention discloses a DC-AC inverter including a decoupling capacitor capable of stabilizing and providing an AC voltage to drive a discharge lamp, while the inverter suggested by Jacobs does not includes a decoupling capacitor and the decoupling capacitor as deemed by the Examiner does not accomplish the decoupling operation. For the

purpose of distinguishing the present invention from Jacobs in terms of the decoupling capacitor, amendments have been made to claim 1 in which the limitation of claim 3 is incorporated therein and claim 3 is cancelled without prejudice. Further, the allowable claim 20 has been rewritten into independent claim 19 with intervening claims incorporated therein. The Applicants respectfully request a reconsideration of the claimed invention with expedition, and the allowance of the claimed invention is respectfully requested at an early date.

In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicant' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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